

St. Matthew Parish



Website: www.stmatthewrc.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Fr. Frank Black

Priests

Fr. Thaddeus J. Abraham

Msr. Pierre Andre

Pierre

Fr. Ralph Theodat

Fr. Paul Afetor

Deacon

Nickie Colon



St. Gregory the Great

224 Brooklyn Ave.

Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel 718- 773-0100

Fax 718- 773-4198

Email: faithcommstgreg@aol.com

Mass Schedule:

First Friday 10:00am

Saturday-5pm

Sunday 11:30am

Saturday: Reconciliation-4:30 pm

Office Staff

Secretary: Rosanne Barber Ext.100

D.R.E.: Monica Flemmings

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm

St. Matthew

1123 Eastern Pkwy.,

Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel 718- 774-6747

Fax 718- 953-4895

Email: stmatthew1123@aol.com

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday 7:30am & 9:00am

Saturday 8:00am & 8:00pm

Saturday: Reconciliation-7:30 pm
or by appointment

Sunday:

English-7:30am & 11:30am

Spanish 9:30am; Kreyol 1:30pm

Office Staff

Secretary: Sharon Andrews

D.R.E.: Charmaine Noel

Office Hours:

Monday:10:00am-4:00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday Friday & Saturday:

10:00am-6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am-4:00pm

Monday - Saturday-

Closed for lunch 1-2 P.M.

Our Lady Of Charity

1669 Dean St.,

Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel 718- 774-5100

Fax 718- 778-3335

Email: Olc1669@aol.com

Mass Schedule:

Sunday: Rosary 9:00am

9:30am-Praise & Worship

10am-Mass

Office Staff:

Secretary: Patricia Romain

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday:10am-6pm

Catholic Cemeteries—

80-01 Metropolitan Ave.

Middle Village, NY 11379

Tel:718 – 894-4888



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sacrificial

Peter said, "You are the Christ." Then Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him. So why the secret? If Jesus was the Messiah as Peter proclaimed in today's gospel from Mark, why be quiet about it? If Jesus healed people like He did throughout the Gospel of Mark, why keep it a secret? The reason is simple: you cannot understand Jesus' Work or His Messianic mission, unless you understand and embrace the cross. That's where Peter went so wrong.

It might seem reasonable at first. Jesus, Peter's friend, said that he was going to Jerusalem where he would be killed. Peter, as a good friend had said, "Then don't go. Don't do this." Peter did not yet understand the cross. He did not yet understand the depth of the sacrificial love of the Savior of the World. He was thinking in the way of the world. The way of the world would demand that Jesus limit his sacrifice. It would value present joy over eternal happiness. The way of the world would basically be concerned with number one. It is the way that we have to fight against throughout our lives. From the earliest days of our childhood, we have the attitude that our own needs are more important than any one else's needs.

This is perfectly acceptable for a little child, especially an infant or toddler. The little one cannot exist without help and needs to call out for it, whether it is the baby crying for food in the middle of the night or the little one needing Mommy, Daddy or an older sibling to protect him or her. But the egocentricity of the child has got to end or the result will be a self-centered adult that has little to no room for God or God's people in his or her life. That is the way of the world, the way that Jesus rejected. Look around at society. Look at the people who only care for themselves, even leaving their children to shift for themselves while they pursue their own perceived happiness.

The way of selfishness is the way of the world. The way of selfishness is often our first reaction to being asked to step away from ourselves and into caring for others. Most of us initially tend to react like the son who told his father that he would not go work in the field, but then realized that he was wrong and went and did as his father asked. Over and over, I'll witness people, Teens through adults, say, "No, I am not going to do that. I am secure in my own little world." But then when they are needed, they are there. It is one of the reasons why I love you folks so much because you are always demonstrating your generosity even when it is difficult. A husband gets a call from his wife that she is sick. Can he pick up the kids, get the dry cleaning and do the shopping? His initial reaction, which hopefully he keeps to himself is, "Oh gee, I don't want to, I was hoping to work out after work." But he stifles

that and says, "Sure dear. Do you need me to get you anything from the drug store." It's little, but it is sacrificial love. It is normal for us to initially object to being called out of ourselves. We have to fight the temptation to take care of number one, to remain in our own self-centeredness. We have to take steps to deny ourselves for the sake of the Kingdom of God. That's what Jesus is speaking of when he says, "Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." The sacrificial love of Christians, the accepting of the cross is not for ourselves. It is for others.

This is where the second reading from James comes in. All that we do by way of sacrifice we do for others. The way of the Christian is the way of giving oneself for others. So James says, "Don't think that you are being such a great guy when you say to the person who is cold and hungry, 'Have a great day now, keep warm and eat well,' and do nothing for that person." People of faith are people who reach out from their egocentricity and care for others. But this takes sacrifice. This is what Jesus does. And by following Him, by doing what He does, He makes us an everlasting gift to the Father. He makes us like Him. And the Father sees the image of the Son in us and loves us with an unconditional love.

Like Jesus we are called to deny ourselves and take up the cross for the sake of others. That means that our actions have divine significance for others, significance that we might not even realize. For example, we don't wreck ourselves up by taking drugs or getting drunk. Why? Not just out of self-respect, although that is important, but because there are others now and down the road who need all our brain cells to be able to function. Young people refrain from sex outside of marriage not because this is a Church no-no, but so they can give themselves totally to that person they commit to for life.

The married remain faithful as one of many ways of declaring their love for their spouse. Christianity is not about "little ole self centered me in love with myself." Nor is Christianity about you. Christianity is all about Jesus Christ. To follow Him means that we are called to be like Him. Following Jesus is still a secret.

People love calling themselves Christians, but refuse to adopt a Christian attitude of life. But following Jesus is not a secret from those who love like He loved, denying themselves for the sake of others, for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Today we pray for the courage to be Christian.

WEEKLY READINGS	
Sun Sept 15	IS 50:c-9a/Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35
Mon Sept 16	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Lk 7:1-10
Tue Sept 17	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Lk 7:11-17
Wed Sept 18	1 Cor 12:31—13:13/ LK 7:11-17
Thu Sept 19	1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 7:31-35
Fri Sept 20	1 Cor 15:12-20/ Lk 8:1-3
Sat Sept 21	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

OUR LADY OF CHARITY: MASS INTENTIONS

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS : Joylyn Frederick , Claudine Noel , Ernice Noel , Rick Dingle, Sada Piggott , Lyn Joseph , Danielle Shaday Holloway , Delma Donat , Ryan Duncan , Ebony Merius , Kristine Johnson , Giovanni Chad Knight , Dominise Duliepre , Judith Phillip , Margala Ann Lewis , Andre Cuffie Jr.,

We pray to the Lord

TODAY'S MASS : We pray to the Lord.

SANCTUARY CANDLES & ALTER BREAD:

For the month of September is donated for the Haynes requested by Haynes family, **We pray to the Lord.**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY : Mr. & Mrs. Horace Mathis Sr. , Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Cadore , Mr. & Mrs. Rick Dingle , Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Inniss , Mr. & Mrs. Hezekiah D. Jackson , **We pray to the Lord.**

PARISH PRAYER: For our parish, that the three communities of St. Matthew, St. Gregory the Great and Our Lady of Charity, learn how to merge and grow together spiritually and become financially sound as three and yet one,

We pray to the Lord.

ST. GREGORY : MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Sept. 14 th	5 PM Vigil Mass for Monica Norde Norville, R.I.P., Requested by her sister Claudette Norde
Sunday, Sept. 15 th	11:30 AM Mass for Cynthia Tege, R.I.P., Requested by The Family
Saturday, Sept. 21 st	5 PM Vigil Mass for Cornelia Robergeau, R.I.P., Requested by The Family

ST. MATTHEW: MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday September 14	8:00pm– For our parishioners
Sunday September 15	7:30am– The Johnson family 9:30am–In loving memory Maria Sosa by Nancy Valdez 11:30am–In memory of Francis Franklin & Ewart Seales by The Seales family 1:30pm–In loving memory of Immacula Michel by Marie Coeur Michel
Monday September 16	7:30am – Blessings for Maria Alleyne & Lynette Bourne by Tamara Smart 9:00am – For our parishioners & their families
Tuesday September 17	7:30am – Birthday blessings for Stephanie Baguiday 9:00am – Healing & blessings for our parishioners
Wednesday September 18	7:30am – For our parishioners 9:00am – In remembrance of Leno Mitchell & Joseph by Mitchell family
Thursday September 19	7:30am –Repose of the soul Joseph Olivia Kebreau by Stephane & siblings 9:00am – Peace in the world
Friday September 20	7:30am – Repose of the soul Joseph Olivia Kebreau by Stephane & siblings 9:00am – Spiritual guidance for Diane & Jem by Shirley
Saturday September 21	8:00am– Birthday blessings for Doris Robinson



BREAD FOR SEPTEMBER



Birthday blessings for Uphita Clarke

SACRAMENTS & REGISTRATION

PARISH REGISTRATION:

All are welcome! Any letter concerning sponsorship for the sacraments or testimonial letters will only be issued to registered parishioners of 6+ months. Please register in the rectory.

✂

Full Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Were you registered before _____

If yes, registration # _____

RCIA

RCIA stands for RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS and is composed of a series of sessions bringing people together to experience the prayer life of the church as well as learn about its doctrines and teachings. Using the readings from the Bible which we hear daily at Mass, the Sacred Liturgy as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, teens and adults who have not yet done so prepare themselves to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist.

C'est la préparation de Ceux qui ne sont pas catholiques mais qui veulent le devenir. RCIA prépare ces personnes à recevoir le sacrement de baptême.

Es el proceso para preparar los no católicos que están interesados en pasa a ser miembros de la iglesia católica. También prepara católicos para completar el sacramento de la iniciación.

SACRAMENTS & REGISTRATION

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS/RECONCILIACION

- ◆ Saturday 7:30PM-8:00PM or anytime by appointment in the Rectory.
- ◆ Samedi 7:30PM-8:00PM ou du moins appelez du presbytere pour un rendez-vous.
- ◆ Sábados de 7:30PM-8:00PM o cualquier otra hora por cita.

MARRIAGE/MARIAGE/MATRIMONIOS

*Arrangements must be made AT LEAST six (6) months in advance

*Contacter le presbytère au moins (6) l'avance.

*Arreglos deben ser hechos por lo menos seis (6) meses por adelante.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK/LES MALADES/LOS ENFERMOS

- * Sick & Homebound can receive the sacrament of anointing from a priest and receive Holy Communion on a regular basis from our Ministers of Holy Communion. Please contact the Rectory
- * Ceux qui sont très maladies et ne peuvent pas sortir de leur maison peuvent recevoir le sacrement d'extrême onction d'un prêtre de la paroisse, la sainte communion d'un ministre de l'eucharistie appelle au presbytère pour un rendez-vous.
- * Puede recibir el Sacramento de los enfermos por un sacerdote. En tiempos regulares puede recibir Sagrada Comunión de uno de nuestro ministros de la Comunión Favor notificar la rectoría.

BAPTISM/BAPTEME/BAUTISMO

- ◆ Registration and preparation in our baptismal class is required. Please contact the Rectory for date and time of our next class.
- ◆ Tous ceux ou celles qui voudraient recevoir le baptême doivent se faire enregistrer au presbytère pour prendre part aux cours avant la réception de ce sacrement. Pour plus d'information, composez le 718-774-6747
- ◆ Registracion y participación en nuestras clases bautismal es un requisito para el bautismo. Favor de encontrar el diacono Cruz para fijar la fecha y clases

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

For the homebound, hospitalized and sick

Judith Adams, Carmen Allen, Rita Antomez, Armelle Amilcar, Hillary Amarosa, Loraine Quash- Antoine, Marie Augustin, Al Barnett, Monica Belfon, Marque & Yael Barber-LaFon, Melona Barber, Jason Bascom, Silvestre Brathwaite, Ismay Brewster, Jahonah Brown, Recy Brown, Isabella Bugett, Patricia Burrowes, Yolande Cadet, Eslyn Canning, Diana Codogan, Cathleen Charles, Catilda Charles, Delcia Charles, Marcel Charles, Maria Clouden, Cecilia Clovie, Mahalia Clunis, Nelia Collins, Marilyn Coates, Virginia Cox, Daphne Critchlow, Golda Critchlow, Theresa Cudjoe, Veronica Dale, Angela Daniels, Shirley Daniels, Marcella DeSandies, Joseph Drew, Stephen Duncan, Dorothy Edwards, Una Europe, Stella Emmanuel, Elardo Flemmings, Carrie Frasier, Sherwin Fung, John Gale, Ryan Gee, Sybil Geoffroy, Catherine & Deacon Roy George, Bernadette Gilbert, Muriel Gomez, Trina Gonzalez, Kellon Hagley, Kelly Hagley, Gwendolyn Harding, Pat Harris, Bruno Henry, Beverly Hillyer, Pierre & Elreta Hinds, Florence Holder, Danielle Huie, Janice & Orson Hutchings, Kerlyne Hyppolite, Anasha Inniss, Carlyn Jabouin, Donna James, Nellie James, Roberta Jennings, Alsie Johnson, Nicole Johnson, Magdalena Joseph, Ian Kellman, Lucy King, Albert Kirton, Tai Lambert, Kanelle Lang, Rhoda Lewis, Sampson Lewis, Marjorie Lopez, Luis Manuel Lorenzo, Madelin Lorenzo, Vivian Boykin Lott, Norberto Lovell, Jean Lubin, Gloria Lynch, Hubert Lynch, Mamita, Barbara Manuel, Judith Matthew, Wilma Maynard, Tom McCafferty, Laura McDonald, Mavis McDonald, Leticia McDowell, Vernita McDowell, Gemma Mejias, Daniel David Mendez, Marcelina Morales, Grant Nelson Jr., Isai Munoz, Marta Munoz, Nelson Munoz, Suzanna Neil, Ronald Nethersole, Claudette Norde, Mother Dolores Olf, Keena Ollivierre, Margaret Otumba, Ronaldo Nano Paul, Sharonie Perry, Andre Perry, Chung Peters, Mary James Peterson, Marie Pierre, Melody Pink, Sonia Prescott, Ann Primo, Val Quash, Len Quash, Dorothy Irons Reid, Catherine Richards, Elizabeth Rivera, Carlos Rudas, Lidia Saunders, Fr. Robert Seay, Pamela Smith, Pema Smith, Robert Smith, Lisa Scott Spencer, Delores Sykes, Kevin Maynard, Basil Suarez, Antonio Sultan, Brenda & Javier Talango, Angela & Edris Thomas, Jean Thornhill, Allison Thorpe, Lyonette Tribie, Janet Throne, Malik Wellington, Karen Williams, Terrance Williams, Octavio Willis, Leandro Wilson, Reynolds Williams, Christine Wright, Joan Wright, Natasha Wright, Vilma Zuniga

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR : Yvonne Lacy Dean Jackson, Wendy Romain, Vaughn Haynes, Georgeann Campbell, Danielle Huie, Cotilda Charles, Anthony Hepburn Jr., Lawrence Latimer & family, La Mar Mc Nabb, Lisa Colone, Christine Hudson & family, Conrad Lord, Glenda Hunter, Livingston Holloway, Jaden Bell, Nathan Ford Sr. & family, Sabrinia Guess, Daphne & Golda Critchlow, Gwen & Helena Pugh, Almarie Mc Coy, Raymond Jorsling, Kato Pollydore, Judith Prosper, Lisa Scott/ Spencer, Carla Martin, Marge Holas, Hermelene Thomas, Althea Gordon, Maureen Walter, Khalilah Saleem, Quarless family, Lisa Scott/Spencer, all families represented here today, **We pray to the Lord.**

All students, teachers and principals, President Joseph Biden & his family, Vice President Kamala Harris & her family, our Government, prayers and petitions in our prayer basket, for the all Priest especially those who serve here at Charity, Religious Vocations, and an increase in Religious Vocations, all men and women serving our country, the elders, all who are incarcerated, and unexpressed prayers, for immigrants, a successful solution to the pandemic, the mentally sick, the unemployed and under employed, end to gun violence and for world peace,

WEEKLY MEETINGS - St. Matthew

St. Matthew weekly meetings have commenced. Please contact your ministry to find out the time and date of the meetings.

WEEK OF SUNDAY 09/15/2024 @ ST. GREGORY

WEEK OF SUNDAY 09/15/24 @ ST. GREGORY

+ **9:30 AM Sunday school CLOSED -Will resume in October**

+ **11:30 AM Mass – (Live Stream)**

+ **CREDIT UNION-OPEN**

MONDAY 09/16/24

+ **7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Church**

FRIDAY 09/20/24

+ **7:15 PM Bible Study-meets via zoom (Studying the Book of Exodus)**

SATURDAY 09/21/24

+ **4 PM Confession**

+ **4 PM Vigil Choir Rehearsals**

+ **4 PM Light Fest Prayer Group – via zoom**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362442148?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362442148?pwd=MGVNMWFQcVdrQktXeTh0YjRadC9Mdz09)

[pwd=MGVNMWFQcVdrQktXeTh0YjRadC9Mdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362442148?pwd=MGVNMWFQcVdrQktXeTh0YjRadC9Mdz09)

+ **5 PM Vigil Mass-Church**

COLLECTION 09/07– 09/08/2024

ST. MATTHEW

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
8:00 PM	29	742.00	206.00	948.00
7:30 AM	91	3110.00	446.00	3556.00
9:30 AM	53	1156.46	235.16	1391.62
11:30 AM	65	1620.00	484.75	2104.75
1:30 PM	38	585.00	111.00	696.00
L.I.R.	—	1116.00	—	1,116.00
Total	276	8329.46	1,482.91	9812.37

ST. GREGORY

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
5 PM	13	900.00	62.00	962.00
11:30AM	27	770.00	195.00	965.00
Total	40	1670.00	262.00	1927.00

OUR LADY OF CHARITY

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
10:00AM	39	1848.00	—	1848.00
Total	39	1848.00	—	1848.00

ST. MATTHEW EXPENSES

INCOME	Jan – June 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	CHANGE
COLLECTION	\$ 463,241	\$484,004	(20,763)
RENTAL INCOME	280,457	260,410	20,047
DONATIONS/ FUNDRAISING	58,690	30,214	28,476
OTHER	17,060	1,622	15,438
TOTAL INCOME	819,448	776,250	43,198
EXPENSES			
SALARIES	380,494	411,038	30,089
MAINTENANCE	82,778	97,198	14,419
OFFICE EXPENSE	68,823	69,626	803
PROGRAMS	2,408	6,396	3,988
ALTAR SUPPLIES	9,655	14,393	4,738
UTILITIES	127,757	93,675	(34,083)
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	192,841	181,601	(11,240)
TOTAL 3 EXPENSE	865,212	873,296	8,714
NET INCOME LOSS	(45,764)	(97,675)	51,912

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

*ALL ARE INVITED to join St. Gregory the Great **BIBLE STUDY** meets on zoom every Friday from 7:30PM to 8:30PM with Catherine Abdullah Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

Bible Study is beginning the Book of Exodus
(A Book of the Bible is picked (By the Group) alternatively, from the Old Testament, followed by The New Testament.)

Link for Bible Study <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85498875775?pwd=Nk4zY3BVOUFmVzRUSDJodllWSDArUT09>

. Dial 929-205-6099 using meeting ID 782362442148 and pass code 424370. (Please contact any member for information on book currently being read.) (ALL ARE WELCOME!)

(SEE CHANGE) LIGHT FEST PRAYER GROUP Meets In Person at St. Gregory R.C. Church every **“SECOND SATURDAY”** of the month in the Rectory’s dining room. The remaining Saturdays of the month, Light Fest Prayer Group meets on zoom in the Light Fest Reading Room from 8PM to 9PM.

UPCOMING MTGS. & EVENTS @ ST. GREGORY

ST. GREGORY’S USHER BOARD ANNUAL BUS OUTING

Atlantic City Resort’s Casino on Saturday, September 28th, 2024. Bus leaving at 7 AM from St. Gregory’s Church. COST: \$60, play and earn \$10 in slot play.

Heritage Committee of St. Gregory the Great Luncheon on October 19th, 2024 at St. Teresa of Avila Church located at 555 Sterling Place (Franklin & Classon Aves.) Time: 12pm to 5pm Tickets Adults: \$40 and Kids: \$20. **There will be music by DJ Page, our very own Ms. Nicole Davis and the Internationally Renowned Opera and Concert Singer,**

Mr. Everett Suttle

EL CRISTO NEGRO MASS Sunday, October 20th, 2024 at 11:30 AM.

FREE SHREDDING EVENT sponsored by Crown Heights North Associated on Saturday, October 19th, 2024 from 9 AM to 12 Noon.. **Hospitality immediately after the 11:30 AM Mass on the church porch.**

GIFT SHOP

Located @ the back of the Church, selling an array of religious articles including rosaries, open on weekends before & after Mass.

VOCATIONS

“He willed to give us birth” Is your prayer attentive to the wisdom of Christ? Is he inviting you to follow him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?
Contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email:
vocations@diobrook.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Adoration in the Church on
**Wednesdays and Fridays after 9:00
am Mass until 12:00 noon and
First Fridays from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.**

Your hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will repair for evils of the world and bring about peace on earth “Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Jesus.” *(Pope John II)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

+ Friday September 13th - Exposition, Praise & Worship from 7 P.M. to Midnight

+ Friday, September 13th - We will start reciting the 1,000 Hail Mary's after the 7:30 A.M. Mass. We will stop for the 9 A.M. Mass after which we will Resume praying the 1000 Hail Mary's .

+ REVIVAL—Tuesday, September 17th—Thursday, September 19th with Fr. Solomon

Saturday, September 21st— Come celebrate our Feast Day with Mass at 8 A.M. followed by the Prayer Breakfast at 10 A.M

+ PRAYER BREAKFAST - Saturday, September 21st @ 10 A.M. with Fr. Solomon

The National Center of the Haitian Apostolate invites the faithful to participate in the biblical, doctrinal, and social program offered at the Haitian Pastoral Institute . The sessions are held on zoom every 2nd Saturday.

Classes will begin on Saturday, September 7th from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Meeting ID: 841 611 77673

Passcode: 587660

THE PURPOSEFUL PILGRIM

Jewish pilgrimage to the Holy City began a millennium before the birth of Christ. Christians began journeying to Jerusalem in the first century. And Muslims began their pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the seventh century following the death of Mohammed.

In the ninth chapter of Luke’s Gospel we read about Jesus on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. “Now it happened as the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, he resolutely turned his face towards Jerusalem. Luke 9:51)”

He didn’t just go he went resolutely.

Some translations use “He resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem.”

“ He steadfastly and determinedly set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

Others add, “to fulfill his purpose. “

What do we approach with the same passion and commitment determination and steadfastness as Jesus approached Jerusalem?

Anything? Probably not. And what does that say about us?

Some people will convince themselves that they should be more committed to some worldly pursuit. But the truth is, the reason we have not committed ourselves so fully, so totally, so Completely, to anything in this world ,is that we are made for more. This type of commitment belongs to God and to God alone.

We are called to pursue heaven ,which is union with God ,with that kind of steadfastness, determination, focus and clarity. We are called to pursue heaven as resolutely as Jesus determined to journey toward his death and resurrection in Jerusalem.

Jesus set off toward Jerusalem with determined resolve. It is time to bring that focus and clarity to our lives.

Every encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, whether it is at Mass on Sunday or sitting before the tabernacle for a few moments in an empty church increases our clarity about what matters most and what doesn’t matter at all. Most people are confused about what really matters and God wants to liberate us from that confusion.

Eucharistic clarity leads us to focus on the right things. We all get to choose who and what we care about and who and what we choose to care about determines everything. For whatever we focus on will increase in our lives

Catholics are not called to wander aimlessly through life. There are too many people tragically wandering aimlessly through life There have been times when you and I have lived our lives that way wandering aimlessly and indulging every manner of distraction. But now is time to quit the endless wandering and take on the determination of a purposeful pilgrim. That is exactly what we are striving to do as we prepare for Eucharistic Consecration.

Jesus resolutely determine to journey to Jerusalem Let’s apply that resolute determination to our earthly pilgrimage toward the Eternal city. Are you determined?

TRUST. SURRENDER. BELIEVE. RECEIVE.

Lesson :A purposeful pilgrim sets aside the distractions of this world and is resolutely determined to journey to heaven.

Virtue of the day: Determination. The virtue of determination allows us to focus on a task and see it through to completion. Just keep moving in the direction of your goal or destination.

Determination is taking the next step no matter how small that step may be.